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November 20, 2003

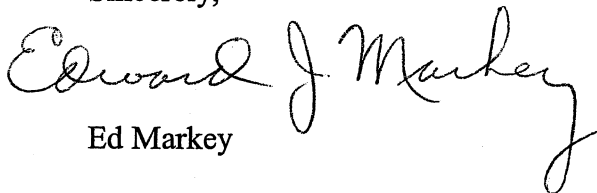
**Leaving LIHEAP Out in the Cold
Leaves Poor Families Burned
Support the Markey Motion to Instruct**

Dear Colleague:

Tomorrow I intend to offer an motion to instruct the House conferees on the Labor HHS Appropriations bill to recede to the higher Senate funding levels for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This critical program, which helps low-income families pay for their heating and air conditioning bills, is underfunded by a total of \$300 million below the level requested by President Bush in the proposed Labor HHS Appropriations Conference Report.

The table that appears on the opposite side of this letter provides a state-by-state breakdown of the funding levels provided for LIHEAP under the House- and Senate-passed appropriations bills, as well as the preliminary conference agreement. As you can see, every state loses from these cuts, with the Northeast and Midwest bearing the brunt of the burden. At a time when many low-income families are struggling more than ever to make ends meet, we should not be cutting on their heating assistance. The very least we should do is fund this program and the level requested by the President. My motion would instruct the House conferees to agree to fund the regular LIHEAP authorization at the higher Senate funding levels. Please vote for the motion. Should you have any questions, please contact Jeff Duncan or Ana Unruh of my staff at x52836.

Sincerely,


Ed Markey

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOUSE, SENATE, AND PROPOSED CONFERENCE

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FY 2004 APPROPRIATIONS STATUS (\$'s in 000's) 11/18/03

State	FY 2003 Total 1/	FY 2004 House 2/	FY 2004 Senate 2/	Difference House - Senate
Alabama	\$16,212	\$14,364	\$16,939	(\$2,576)
Alaska	11,166	9,168	10,812	(1,644)
Arizona	7,816	6,947	8,192	(1,246)
Arkansas	12,331	10,960	12,925	(1,965)
California	86,703	77,054	90,870	(13,816)
Colorado	30,236	26,866	31,684	(4,817)
Connecticut	43,803	35,047	41,332	(6,284)
Delaware	5,765	4,652	5,486	(834)
Dist. of Col.	6,267	5,443	6,419	(976)
Florida	25,867	22,726	26,801	(4,075)
Georgia	20,312	17,969	21,190	(3,222)
Hawaii	2,036	1,810	2,134	(325)
Idaho	12,033	10,480	12,359	(1,879)
Illinois	109,605	97,006	114,400	(17,394)
Indiana	50,198	43,922	51,798	(7,876)
Iowa	35,511	31,128	36,710	(5,582)
Kansas	16,087	14,295	16,859	(2,563)
Kentucky	26,073	22,857	26,955	(4,098)
Louisiana	16,529	14,684	17,317	(2,633)
Maine	29,681	22,706	26,777	(4,071)
Maryland	32,059	26,836	31,648	(4,812)
Massachusetts	86,078	70,107	82,678	(12,571)
Michigan	105,354	92,100	108,614	(16,514)
Minnesota	77,475	66,352	78,250	(11,898)
Mississippi	13,865	12,314	14,522	(2,208)
Missouri	43,748	38,749	45,697	(6,948)
Montana	13,965	12,292	14,496	(2,204)
Nebraska	17,436	15,393	18,154	(2,760)
Nevada	3,698	3,262	3,847	(585)
New Hampshire	16,921	13,270	15,650	(2,380)
New Jersey	78,869	65,083	76,754	(11,670)
New Mexico	9,786	8,697	10,256	(1,559)
New York	260,473	212,508	250,613	(38,105)
North Carolina	38,066	31,670	37,349	(5,679)
North Dakota	15,631	13,353	15,748	(2,394)
Ohio	98,136	85,817	101,205	(15,388)
Oklahoma	14,850	13,202	15,569	(2,367)
Oregon	23,957	20,823	24,556	(3,734)
Pennsylvania	136,633	114,148	134,616	(20,468)
Rhode Island	14,200	11,540	13,609	(2,069)
South Carolina	13,376	11,407	13,452	(2,045)
South Dakota	12,621	10,845	12,790	(1,945)
Tennessee	26,380	23,153	27,304	(4,152)
Texas	42,538	37,810	44,590	(6,780)
Utah	14,102	12,484	14,723	(2,239)
Vermont	12,599	9,946	11,729	(1,783)
Virginia	39,065	32,689	38,551	(5,861)
Washington	39,245	34,250	40,392	(6,141)
West Virginia	17,353	15,127	17,839	(2,712)
Wisconsin	69,535	59,726	70,435	(10,709)
Wyoming	5,629	4,999	5,895	(896)
Other 3/	2,931	2,553	3,011	(458)
Leveraging	27,500	27,500	27,500	0
Total	\$1,988,300	\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000	(\$300,000)

1/ Includes \$200 million in emergency funds.

2/ The House bill Includes \$100 million in Emergency Funds, the Senate bill does not.

3/ Includes payments to Territories and HHS training and technical assistance funds.

Source: National Energy Assistance Directors' Association